

PRESS RELEASE



The Cleveland Museum of Art

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THE 1979 MAY SHOW

Six artists and craftsmen from Ohio's Western Reserve have won special awards in The Cleveland Museum of Art's 60th annual juried exhibition, the May Show. Announcement was made Monday, April 9, at a preview of the exhibition. The 1979 May Show opens April 11 and remains on view through May 13 in the special exhibition galleries at the Museum.

Chardon artist Wayne A. Phillips has won the \$1000 award in painting for a meticulously rendered, fantastic landscape entitled Aesthetic Gardens. Phillips' work has been shown in exhibitions in Lake, Geauga, and Ashtabula counties; this is the first year he has exhibited in the May Show.

Athena Tacha, associate professor of art at Oberlin College, received the \$1000 sculpture award. Her prize-winning work, 33 Rhythms (Homage to the Cyclades), is a complex arrangement of steps made of foamcore board and painted in pastel colors. The work, which could serve as a model for a monumental construction, reflects the artist's long fascination with staircases (such as those at ancient sites in her native Greece)--frequently manifested in plans for environmental sculpture.

She has exhibited throughout the United States, and in a number of May Shows, winning first prize for sculpture both in 1968 and 1971. Her public commissions include Tension Arches, 1975, a painted stainless steel sculpture for the Huron Road Mall in Cleveland, and a sandstone and rock step-sculpture for Vine Street Park in Oberlin, completed in 1976.

(more)

2-1979 may show

Recipient of the \$1000 award for crafts is George A. Roby, a ceramic artist from Chagrin Falls and currently chairman of the Department of Art at Hawken School in Gates Mills. His award-winning stoneware forms, entitled 78-4 and 78-5, are fired with muted earth tones and incised linear patterns. His ceramics have been exhibited in May Shows since 1964 and in numerous other regional exhibitions, including the Butler Institute of American Art's Sculpture and Ceramic Shows, and the Ohio Designer/Craftsman Shows.

For the third consecutive year, the \$1000 award in graphics was split between two artists. Ginna Brand, who teaches drawing and painting at the Fairmount Center for the Creative and Performing Arts, Cleveland Heights, and directs the arts enrichment program at the New Gallery, Cleveland, received \$500 for her dramatic collage drawings, Drawn Lead No. 1 and Drawn Lead No. 2. Photographer Barbara Canfield, who lives in East Cleveland, was awarded \$500 for her hand-colored photograph of foliage-covered hills entitled Colorado No. 2. Brand has exhibited widely, with works in every May Show since 1972. Canfield, whose work has not appeared in a May Show previously, has exhibited in photography shows in Cleveland, as well as the Butler Institute of American Art's annual photography show.

This year the Horace E. Potter Memorial Award for Excellence in Craftsmanship went to metalsmith Hannelore Gabriel for a finely wrought box with a pyramidal-shaped cover using various metals and decorations: King-Knows-It-All Pyramid. Gabriel, a resident of Madison, has received a number of awards for metalworking; her works have been displayed in two previous May Shows.

In addition to the award-winning works, 35 others were cited by jurors for special mention. There were eleven special mentions in painting, five in sculpture, six in graphics, six in photography, and seven in crafts.

(more)

3-1979 may show

Of the 2,219 objects entered by 1,216 artists this year, 224 works created by 190 artists were selected for the exhibition. These figures represent an increase over last year in works both entered and accepted for the May Show. (Last year's exhibition consisted of 207 objects by 177 artists.)

Works in the 1979 May Show were selected by members of the Museum's professional staff and two outside jurors. Stephen Prokopoff, director of the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston, assisted in the judging of painting, sculpture, graphics, and photography, while Robert Ebendorf, internationally-recognized metalsmith and professor of art at the State University College of New York, New Paltz, helped jury the crafts. Coordinator of this year's May Show is Tom E. Hinson, associate curator of modern art at the Cleveland Museum.

For the length of the exhibition, the May Show galleries will be open Friday evenings until 10 p.m. The Museum is always open on Wednesday evenings until 10 p.m.

Gallery talks on the May Show will be given on 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11, and Sunday, April 15.

One of the largest and most highly regarded exhibitions of regional art in the country, the Museum's May Show has been held each year since 1919 except for 1970, when construction was being completed on the Museum's educational wing. This year's May Show was rescheduled to open almost a month earlier than is usual so that a major loan show of works by the 18th-century French painter Jean Siméon Chardin could be brought to the Museum for a June opening.

To enter the May Show, artists must have been born or live in the thirteen-county Western Reserve area of Northeast Ohio. Eligible works are limited to those completed during the year preceding exhibition entry.

The 1979 May Show is assisted by a grant from the Ohio Arts Council.

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For additional information or photographs, please contact Public Relations, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 126/421-7340.